

READ THIS!

Tues. 4/1/97

John,

If I'm not here, I'm out taking care of stuff. Sponge died yesterday (I put her to sleep).

When I got home, she seemed fine, but Sunday, she seemed a little strange, kept curling up in the bathtub which was not typical behavior for her. I discovered her in there twice during the day on Sunday. Very late that night I was watching TV and she was drooling which seemed a little weird. I picked her up and her mouth looked very wierd. Then I found her in the bathtub again, and got pretty scared--seemed like there was only one reason she kept going there--the reason I didn't want to think about. The strange thing was she otherwise seemed okay. Running away as usual when I tried to pick her up. But after the third time in the bathtub, I decided to call the vet first thing in the morning. Didn't get much sleep Sunday night (actually Mon. morning), maybe 3 hours, and called the vet and got an appointment an hour later. Sponge came up to 3rd floor and I tried to catch her to put her in the carrier, but she was too fast. When I went downstairs she was on the couch and her mouth/face has worsened dramatically in the few hours I was asleep.

When the Vet walked in the room and took one look, I knew it was over. It turned out that a tumor had developed in her lower jaw and had knocked her mouth totally out of alignment. There was nothing they could do, the tumor was too big. If I had let her live, she wouldn't have been able to eat. There was no choice. They gave her a shot of valium and brough a blanket to the examing table for her to lie on. They kept asking me if I wanted to leave, but I couldn't as long as she was awake. The valium made her act sort of drunk and she kept moving around the table and looking at things, but in a few minutes I knew she really wasn't seeing anything. I stayed with her,

petting her and whispering to her, wrapping the blanket around her. After about 20 minutes they gave her another shot. I stayed but didn't watch. It was over in a minute. I took one last look and left. I'm still very sad and upset.

I tried to call you when I got home after awhile, but missed you by an hour. Guess you got stuck in the storm. Hope you're ok.